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GRAND COUNTY FISHING MAP

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FISHING
IN MIDDLE PARK

Middle Park is blessed with a wide variety of fishing opportunity. . . trophy Lake Trout in Granby Reservoir; trophy Northern Pike and Kokanee Salmon in Williams Fork Reservoir; large, wild Rainbow Trout in the Colorado River; colorful Brook and Cutthroat Trout in high mountain lakes and small tributaries; and, stocked Rainbow Trout in most public waters throughout Middle Park. The Grand County Fishing Guide was produced by the Colorado Division of Wildlife and Routt National Forest Service to identify major fishing resources in this area.

Fishing Pressure Exceeds Reproductive Potential. . .

Due to high altitude and geological barriers, natural fish reproduction is limited in Grand County. Thus, fishing pressure exceeds the reproductive potential of these waters.

Special regulations are crucial in this area. Creel limits, methods of take, and size and slot limits protect fish from overharvest, improve the quality of fishing, and give all anglers a better chance of success.

A copy of the Colorado Fishing Brochure may be found at all stores in Colorado which sell hunting and fishing licenses. Read those regulations when you buy your fishing license. If the dealer doesn't give you a brochure, ask!!

HOT SULPHUR SPRINGS AREA

COLORADO RIVER

There are four public access areas to the Colorado River between Granby Dam and Kremmling. They are located from Hot Sulphur Springs downstream seven miles. The size and number of fish increase dramatically as fishermen move downstream. This is a direct result of special restrictive bag and size limits.

PIONEER PARK

Approximately ½-mile of stream is open to fishing. The area is stocked with 5,400 Rainbow Trout (10") each year. Open fishing with special regulations take effect beginning at the mouth of Byers Canyon (200 yards downstream from the new Grand Avenue bridge) and extending for 14 miles.

HOT SULPHUR STATE WILDLIFE AREA

1.2 miles along the Colorado River is open to fishing for Brown and Rainbow Trout. Unimproved campground sites may be found at the east side by Beaver Creek (County Road 50) and the west side by the DOW's Lone Buck unit, (State Hwy 40).

PARSHALL HOLE

800 feet along the Colorado River, is marked by BLM signs on the upstream end and no trespassing signs on opposite and downsteam sides. It supports a fine Rainbow and Brown Trout fishery.

SUNSET BLM FISHING AREA

A half mile on the Colorado River is open to fishing for Rainbow and Brown Trout. A BLM location sign on State Hwy 40 guides fishermen to a parking area ¼-mile away. This section of river is bounded by no trespassing signs on the upstream and downstream ends.

WILLIAMS FORK RESERVOIR

1,530 acre Williams Fork Reservoir is managed by the Denver Water Board. It supports Kokanee Salmon, Rainbow Trout, Northern Pike, Lake Trout and Brown Trout. Camping is permitted on public land surrounding the lake. Water-related body contact sports are not allowed. A gravel boat ramp is located on the east side. The safest boat launching area is in the southwest bay, which is protected from high winds.

Williams Fork is the best Kokanee Salmon fishery in Middle Park with harvest of 20,000 salmon from 14-16" long. 10" Rainbow Trout are stocked in May and June each year. Rainbow Trout fishing slows by late July when waters warm up. By this time, Kokanee harvest is in full swing.

Northern Pike were stocked in the mid-1970's and natural reproduction now provides fish up to 20 pounds. Best fishing for pike is in the shallow bays through June.

UPPER WILLIAMS FORK RIVER

The Routt National Forest maintains three campgrounds along this nine-mile stretch. Fish species include Rainbow Trout, Brook Trout and Brown Trout. The river has a small population of naturally reproducing fish. The DOW annually stocks 3,200 Rainbow (10") in June, July and August. A wild Brook Trout fishery can be found in the headwater and side tributaries.

High lake fishing can be found at Lake Evelyn and Horseshoe Lake, reached by foot or horseback via Forest Service trails #22 and #58.

WILLOW CREEK

Fourteen miles of Willow Creek is open to public fishing. The Forest Service has two campgrounds located in this area. (Dispersed camping is allowed on National Forest System lands, but not closer than 100 feet to a lake or stream.) Fish species include Rainbow Trout, Brook Trout and Brown Trout. Willow Creek has a small population of natural reproducing fish due to siltation, low flows and anchor ice during winter months.

Here, the DOW annually stocks 15,000 10" Rainbows in July and August. A wild Brook Trout fishery may be found in the upper six miles of Willow Creek (along County Road 4) and in most tributaries.

To reach Lost Lake, the only natural lake in this drainage, follow County Road 4 to Stillwater Pass Junction, then travel on County Road 456 for ½-mile. The lake is another ½-mile hike and boasts of 13" Brook Trout.

WILLOW CREEK RESERVOIR

303-acre Willow Creek Reservoir has a boat ramp, campground and picnic area. Wakeless speeds for boats are permitted. Each year, 20,000 Rainbows (10") are stocked from May through July along with 45,000 5" Rainbows. The 5" Rainbows grow to 10" by December, providing excellent ice fishing.

UPPER FRASER RIVER

Fraser/Winter Park Area

One mile south of Winter Park, open fishing for Rainbow Trout on the Fraser River parallels Hwy 40. Some private sections occur through the ski area. Several Forest Service campgrounds and picnic areas are found along the highway. The river is stocked with 1,300 Rainbows (10") in July and August.

VASQUEZ CREEK

Vasquez Creek may be reached by traveling west on Vasquez Road through the town of Winter Park, ½-mile west to Forest Service property. This creek supports a natural, healthy Brook Trout population which is supplemented by stocking 1,000 Rainbows, (10"). Little Vasquez Creek, which parallels Vasquez Creek about one mile to the east, supports a pure strain of native Colorado River Cutthroat Trout. Catch-and-release fishing is mandatory above the Denver Water Board diversion dam. To reach the dam, travel east on USFS Road 152 from Vasquez Creek.

ST. LOUIS CREEK

St. Louis Creek may be reached by turning on Co. Rd. 73 at Eisenhower Dr. in Fraser, turn left after the railroad tracks and travel two miles to the Forest Service boundary. Seven miles of fishing is available to the public beginning at Forest Service boundry. This area is home to a healthly, natural Brook Trout fishery. St. Louis Creek also is stocked with 2,400 Rainbow Trout, (10"), during July and August. Much of this drainage lies in the Fraser Experimental Forest and camping is permitted only in designated campgrounds.

A stream improvement project consisting of log structures may be seen on one mile of stream just above the St. Louis Creek, however, contain very few fish. A cutthroat fishery may be found in St. Louis Lake, a three-mile hike from the end of County Road 73.

MEADOW CREEK RESERVOIR

Signs posted on Hwy 40 lead fishermen to 168-acre Meadow Creek Reservoir.

Dispersed camping is allowed on National Forest System land, at least 100 feet from a lake or stream. Hand-propelled boats are allowed. There is no boat ramp.

The natural Brook Trout fishery is supplemented by 8,200 Rainbows, (10"), stocked during July and August. Other fisheries in this area include Brook Trout in Meadow Creek above and below the reservoir; and Rainbow and Cutthroat Trout in Meadow Creek above and below the reservoir; and Rainbow and Cutthroat Trout in three high lakes (Columbine, Dorothy, and Caribou). These lakes are reached by hiking two to three miles up Meadow Creek.

A permit is required for overnight camping within the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area from June 1 to September 15. Permits may be obtained at the Forest Service office in Granby.

MONARCH LAKE

Monarch Lake, two miles east of Granby Reservoir, is accessible by foot from a parking lot 200 yards away. Boats may be carried in, but outboard motors are not allowed.

No campgrounds are located at this lake, but there are three campgrounds on the east end of Lake Granby, a few miles away. A Forest Service Trailhead Host lives at Monarch Lake during the summer months.

Monarch Lake parking area is the starting point for reaching other lakes and streams in the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area. (A permit is required for overnight camping in the wilderness area from June 1 to September 15. Permits may be obtained at the Forest Service Office in Granby and at Monarch Lake.)

Brook and Cutthroat Trout can be found in the lakes and streams of the Arapaho and Buchanan drainages. The stream fisheries are supported by natural reproduction while the high lakes are stocked with three-inch Cutthroat Trout by airplane. The National Forest Service provides maps of the wilderness area, detailing trails and regulations.

GRANBY RESERVOIR

Six miles north of the town of Granby on State Highway 34 lies the 7,256 acres Granby Reservoir. With a maximum depth of 221 ft. and 39 miles of shoreline, fishermen may seek Kokanee Salmon, Lake Trout, Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout, Cutthroat Trout and Brook Trout.

Granby Reservoir provides three campground areas, three boat ramps, several picnic areas and five marinas. The Forest Service has two helpful maps detailing this area: the Arapaho National Recreational Area Map and the Granby Navigation Map.

LAKE TROUT OR MACKINAW: Granby has the largest Lake Trout population in Colorado. About 3,000 Macs are caught annually and several exceed 30 pounds and 40" in length. A fish this size is approximately 25 years old.

The first Lake Trout plants were made in 1961. In the past, 80% of the Macs caught were less than 20" or 7-years-old.

Lake Trout are very catchable, which leads to overharvest. Further, more fishermen are learning to fish for Lake Trout than ever before. This puts more pressure on these slow growing fish and keeps them from reaching trophy size.

To maintain Granby Reservoir as a trophy fishery, more restrictive regulations have been imposed in 1988. Please refer to the latest Colorado Fishing Information brochure.

In the past, Mac's were pursued for about six weeks after ice-off by shore fishermen using bait, especially sucker meat. Lake Trout are now pursued by fishermen during all seasons. May/June bait fishermen are joined by lure fishermen trolling the shallows and casting lures. Mid-summer brings the deepwater trollers and jig fishermen. Late fall sees the return of bait fishermen, shallow water trollers and lure casters.

In the winter of 1987, fishermen discovered the ease of Mac fishing through the ice. During ice fishing season, use has gone from 10 Mac-fishermen per day to 250 per day. The ice fishing harvest alone can keep Mac's from reaching trophy size.

Hopefully, with cooperation and understanding, more Mac's will grow to trophy size. Remember, if you want a chance of catching a 25-pounder, don't kill all the 10-pounders!

KOKANEE SALMON: Historically, Granby Reservoir boasted the finest Kokanee Salmon fishing in Colorado with an annual harvest of 60,000 salmon. By 1980, the size of salmon dropped from 13" to 10" long.

The size reduction was the result of competition from mysis shrimp for the salmon's food supply. The DOW is currently searching for ways to decrease the mysis shrimp population and increase Kokanee Salmon size. Total harvest has actually increased since 1980, but 70% of the salmon harvest now occurs during the spawning run in December.

RAINBOW TROUT: 45,000 Rainbows, 10", are stocked annually in Granby. The stocking of Rainbow's in 1987 produced a higher than normal catch rate, but minimal fishing pressure kept the total catch low.

BROWN TROUT: A few Brown Trout up to 10 pounds are caught annually. Most are caught at ice-off and near the inlets in fall, during the spawning runs. These fish are stocked at 5" in small numbers to provide diversity.

SHADOW MOUNTAIN RESERVOIR

Just south of Grand Lake along Hwy 34 in the Arapaho National Recreation Area is Shadow Mountain Reservoir.

Anglers may find Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout, Cutthroat Trout and Brook Trout.

Shadow Mountain Reservoir hosts one campground, two boat ramps, two picnic areas, and two marinas. The Forest Service provides two very helpful maps detailing the area — the Arapaho National Recreation Area map and Shadow Mountain Reservoir navigation map.

71,000 Rainbows (10") are stocked here from April through August along with 90,000 5" Rainbows and Snake River Cutthroat Trout.

Rainbow catch slows during July and August because of warming waters. To enhance the fishing, 4,500 Rainbows are stocked in the spill basin below Shadow Mountain dam during these months.

GRAND LAKE

Bordering the south edge of the town of Grand Lake, the 500 acres, 226 ft. deep lake boasts of fishing for Rainbow Trout, Lake Trout and Brown Trout. Grand Lake has one boat ramp, public piers, a public beach and two marinas, all located on the north side of the lake, adjacent to town. Two other fishing access areas are located on the west side of the lake outlet and on the east side by the west portal. (A handicapped fishing access area is being built.)

Approximately 50,000 Rainbows, (10"), are stocked throughout the summer months. Several Lake Trout over 20 pounds (20 years old) are still caught, but most harvest occurs in the 20" (7-year-old) size group. Since fishing pressure removes most of the Lake Trout from Grand Lake before they mature, stocking of Lake Trout has resumed.

In order to maintain a trophy fishery, restrictive regulations have been imposed in 1988. Please check the recent Colorado Fishing Regulation brochure.

KREMMLING AREA

The Kremmling area offers two major fishing spots — the Colorado River, southwest of town, and Red Dirt Reservoir, northwest of town.

COLORADO RIVER

LOCATION: Travel south from Kremmling on Highway 9 for two miles, turn right on County Road 1. BLM signs at this junction give distances to the pumphouse (12 miles) and Radium areas (18 miles).

A very detailed map of the river from Kremmling to Dotsero may be obtained from the BLM office in Kremmling or from the BLM River Ranger at the Pumphouse campground and boat ramp site.

The BLM has acquired ½-mile of river frontage on the south bank of the Colorado River from above the Radium bridge to the DOW property downstream from the bridge. This provides public access to the south side of the river from Little Gore Canyon to the DOW property.

Anglers will find good Rainbow and Brown Trout fishing on this stretch of river. Occasional large Snake River Cutthroat Trout and some Whitefish may be encountered. This area is heavily used by rafting enthusiasts but lightly used by float boat fishermen. Walk-in fishing also is moderate.

HWY 9 BRIDGE:

Public access is available to both sides of the Colorado River at the Hwy 9 bridge on BLM property and through a lease from private landowners. The accessible portion lies upstream from the bridge to a posted boundary. Please respect private property, and pack out your own trash!

RED MOUNTAIN ACCESS

A 900-foot segment of the Colorado River flows through public land about two miles east of Kremmling. This segment is accessible from U.S. Hwy 40 via a dirt road to an undeveloped parking area. The segment is marked by "No Trespassing" signs on private property boundaries both upstream and downstream.

RED DIRT RESERVOIR

LOCATION: Travel west and north from Kremmling on Highway 40 for six miles. Turn left on Hwy 134, travel another four miles, then turn right at the Red Dirt Reservoir sign. Follow this gravel road five miles, turn right on to County Road 19 and proceed another four miles.

Property surrounding the reservoir is owned by the Forest Service and a local irrigation company. Please respect private property. The reservoir is stocked with 10" Rainbow Trout but also has an excellent population of 8-12" Brook Trout from annual fingerling stockings.

DUMONT LAKE:

Here, anglers will find 10-14" Rainbow and Brook Trout. Travel 35 miles north of Kremmling on Hwy 40; three miles past Muddy Pass look for the direction sign to Dumont Lake. It is located one mile north of Hwy 40 on Old Hwy 40. The Forest Service maintains a full-service campground and day use picnic area.

Return Fish Alive!

- If possible, do not play the fish to total exhaustion while attempting to land it.
- Hold the fish in the water as much as possible when handling it, removing the hook and preparing it for release.
- When removing the hook, do not squeeze the fish or place your fingers in its gills.
- If the fish has swallowed the hook, do not pull it out. Rather, cut the line as close to the hook as possible leaving the hook inside the fish.
- When releasing the fish in the water, hold it gently, facing upstream into the current, until it has become reacclimated. Move it slowly back and forth to help it regain and maintain its equilibrium.

FISH IDENTIFICATION

The following is a list of fish that anglers can expect to find in Middle Park waters. It is important to be able to identify these fish since different bag limits may apply to each species of fish.

RAINBOW TROUT: The Rainbow Trout can best be described as having black spots on a light body and a red stripe on both sides. Mature males often have a hooked lower jaw and a brighter crimson strip on the sides.

BROWN TROUT: A Brown Trout is similar to a Rainbow except the spots include a combination of black and red-orange. The red-orange spots are also surrounded by a blue ring.

BROOK TROUT: The Brook Trout differs from the Rainbow and the Brown in that the body is darker with white and red spots. The red spots, however, are also surrounded by a blue ring. A major distinguishing characteristic is that the pectoral, pelvic and anal fins are orange in color and edged in a distinctive black and white.

LAKE TROUT: Lake Trout are similar to Brook Trout in that the body is dark with white spots. The spots are irregular in shape and pattern rather that round like on the Brook. No colored spots are present. The tail of the Lake Trout is also deeply notched. Lake Trout are also known as Mackinaw.

KOKANEE SALMON: Kokanee Salmon can be distinguished from trout by the silver color of their body. In addition, small black spots are sparce and only occur on the back during the fall spawning season. Male Kokanee develop a deeply hooked jaw, and a brick red hue on the entire body, and green coloring on the head.

NORTHERN PIKE: Northern Pike are distinctly different from trout. Jaws are elongated and flattened, similar to a duck's bill. The fish have extremely large irregular teeth. Most Northerns are green in color with verticle rows of yellow-white spots on the sides.

Dumont Lake
Dumont Lake C.G.
Muddy Pass Lake
Muddy Creek
Continental Divide
To Steamboat Springs
40
Red Dirt Reservoir
101
Red Dirt Creek
100
134
To Toponas
Blacktail Creek
212
French Creek
Kremmling
40
Colorado River
Radium
Inspiration Point
Pumphouse (BLM)
1
Blue River
9
To Green Mountain Reservoir
To Dillon
To I-70
Troublesome Creek
Gold Medal Water
(Between Arrows)
B.L.M. Sunset Area
Parshall Hole
Byers Canyon
Pioneer Park
Parshall
Hot Sulphur Springs
Hot Sulphur Wildlife Area
Beaver Creek C.G.
Williams Fork Reservoir
30
3
Beaver Creek
133
Williams Fork River
Horseshoe C.G.
139
Keyser Creek
Simpson Creek
Hull Creek
Lake Evelyn
Horseshoe Lake
141
Kinney Creek
Darling Creek
St. Louis Lake
Sugarloaf C.G.
South Fork C.G.
Continental Divide
To Walden
4
Denver Creek C.G.
Willow Creek
Lost Lake
Sawmill Gulch C.G.
125
112
Cabin Creek
Willow Creek
Willow Creek Reservoir
Willow Creek C.G.
Colorado River
Granby
34
6
Lake Granby
Roaring Fork Creek
Grouse Creek
Arapaho C.G.
Monarch Lake
Buchanan Creek
Cascade Creek
Arapaho Creek
Crater Lake
Pawnee Lake
Caribou Lake
Columbine Lake
Dorothy Lake
Upper Lake
Stone Lake
Island Lake
Gourd Lake
Long Lake
To Estes Park
Rocky Mountain National Park
Continental Divide
Colorado River
Grand Lake
Shadow Mountain Lake
Green Ridge C.G.
Stillwater C.G.
Fraser River
Meadow Creek
Meadow Creek Reservoir
84
Tabernash
83
Fraser
St. Louis Creek C.G.
Winter Park
Idlewild C.G.
73
Byers Creek C.G.
St. Louis Creek
Little Vasquez Creek
Jim Creek
40
Parry Creek
7
Roberts Roost C.G.
To Empire
To I-70
Eva Creek
Vasquez Creek
Continental Divide

LEGEND

- Campground
- Boat Ramp (Public)
- Water
- Access to River Fishing; Publicly Owned Land
- National Forest Boundary
- Town or City
- Continental Divide
- Paved Road
- Seasonally Accessible Roads
- 1 mile
- Interstate Hwy.
- Federal Hwy.
- State Hwy.
- County Road
- 000 Forest Road

N

Colorado Location Map

Ft. Collins
125
40
34
Kremmling
Granby
25
40
70
Denver
70
25
Colorado Springs

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